



PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

August 27, 2003

DEFENDANT SENTENCED
FOR CIVIL RIGHTS CONSPIRACY

Calvin D. Johnson, age 28, was sentenced today to 18 months imprisonment before United States District Judge James S. Moody, Jr. for conspiracy to violate civil rights by depriving a citizen of property without due process of law. Johnson admitted to assisting former Tampa Police Officer Lawrence Christian cash postal money orders stolen by Christian while Christian was working as a police officer for the City of Tampa Police Department. Johnson admitted to cashing the two postal money orders, with a value of \$534.32, stolen by Christian from a retail theft suspect Christian had arrested at the Neiman-Marcus Department Store on N. West Shore Boulevard in Tampa on April 28, 2002. Christian admitted that he subsequently forged another individual's name on the payee section of the postal money orders and gave the checks to Johnson to negotiate for cash. Christian was sentenced on March 21, 2003 to a term of imprisonment of 24 months.

In addition to the 18 month term of imprisonment, Johnson was ordered to make restitution to the victim of his crime and to served a three-year term of supervised released following his prison sentence.

This case was investigated by the United States Postal Service, Tampa Police Department and the United States Attorney's Office. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jeffrey S. Downing.